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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the claims with the claims provided in the listing below wherein status, amendments, additions and cancellations are indicated.

1-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) A torque transmission coupling comprising:

input-output rotary members rotatably supported to perform input-output transmission of torque;

a frictional engagement section provided between the input-output rotary members to perform torque transmission between the input-output rotary members by enforcing frictional engagement;

a compression member set that comprises a pair of members capable of performing relative rotation and that generates thrust through the relative rotation between the members to thereby cause the frictional engagement section to perform the frictional engagement; and

a rotary actuator that causes both of the members of the compression member set to perform engagement-rotational driving whereby to cause the relative rotation;

the compression member set is a compression gear set that comprises a pair of gears provided as the pair of members, an outer gear engaged with the gears and an outer gear support for supporting the outer gear, and that converts an input generated by rotational driving into a compression force in the direction along a

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rotation axis to thereby cause the frictional engagement section to enforce the frictional engagement, wherein gear ratios or engagement radii between the pair of individual gears and the outer gear are different from each other; any one of the pair of gears, the outer gear, and the outer gear support is non-rotatably supported; any other one thereof is rotationally driven; and the other thereof performs the relative rotation;

the rotary actuator performs the rotational driving; and

the pair of gears comprise a proximal gear and a distal gear;

the distal gear being disposed further from the rotary actuator than the proximal gear; and

the proximal gear being disposed radially inward of said outer gear;

wherein the coupling further comprises:

an exterior housing;

a pinion shaft rotatably connected with the input rotary member;

the pinion shaft being rotatably supported within the housing by a pair of axially spaced bearings; and

center axes of each bearing and said pinion shaft being mutually angularly offset;

A torque transmission coupling according to claim 2, wherein:

the outer gear support is supported to be capable of performing constant-angle relative rotation;

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an urging member to be interposed between the outer gear support and a support body side is provided for biasing against rotation of the outer gear support
~~to interfere to rotation with an urging force for the outer gear support that rotates in the same direction at a time of the rotational driving by the rotary actuator;~~

the torque transmission coupling further comprises displacement detection means that detects a displacement amount when the outer gear support performs rotational displacement in resistance with the urging member; and

an engagement force of the frictional engagement section is obtained in accordance with the displacement amount detected

the outer gear support comprises:

first and second radially extending plates disposed on axially opposing ends of the outer gear;

a pin connecting the plates and supporting the outer gear;

one of the plates including a cutout, the cutout having a first end disposed between an inner and outer radius of the plate and the cutout extending tangentially from the first end; and

the urging member being a biasing member that engages the plate cutout.

7. (Cancelled)

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8. (Currently Amended) A torque transmission coupling comprising:
input-output rotary members rotatably supported to perform input-output
transmission of torque;

a frictional engagement section provided between the input-output rotary
members to perform torque transmission between the input-output rotary members
by enforcing frictional engagement;

a compression member set that comprises a pair of members capable of
performing relative rotation and that generates thrust through the relative rotation
between the members to thereby cause the frictional engagement section to perform
the frictional engagement; and

a rotary actuator that causes both of the members of the compression
member set to perform engagement-rotational driving whereby to cause the relative
rotation;

the compression member set is a compression gear set that comprises a pair
of gears provided as the pair of members, an outer gear engaged with the gears and
an outer gear support for supporting the outer gear, and that converts an input
generated by rotational driving into a compression force in the direction along a
rotation axis to thereby cause the frictional engagement section to enforce the
frictional engagement, wherein gear ratios or engagement radii between the pair
of individual gears and the outer gear are different from each other; any one of the
pair of gears, the outer gear, and the outer gear support is non-rotatably supported;

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any other one thereof is rotationally driven; and the other thereof performs the relative rotation;

the rotary actuator performs the rotational driving; and

the pair of gears comprise a proximal gear and a distal gear;

the distal gear being disposed further from the rotary actuator than the proximal gear; and

the proximal gear being disposed radially inward of said outer gear;

wherein the coupling further comprises:

an exterior housing;

a pinion shaft rotatably connected with the input rotary member;

the pinion shaft being rotatably supported within the housing by a pair of axially spaced bearings; and

center axes of each bearing and said pinion shaft being mutually angularly offset;

wherein:

the rotary actuator performs the rotational driving of the one of the pair of gears;

the outer gear support is non-rotatably supported;

a cam mechanism is interposed between the pair of gears;

the gear ratios or the engagement radii between the pair of individual gears and the outer gear are different from each other;

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~~A torque transmission coupling according to claim 4, wherein:~~ the outer gear support is supported to be capable of performing constant-angle relative rotation;

an urging member to be interposed between the outer gear support and a support body side is provided for biasing against rotation of the outer gear support ~~to interfere to rotation with an urging force for the outer gear support that rotates in the same direction at a time of the rotational driving by the rotary actuator;~~

the torque transmission coupling further comprises displacement detection means that detects a displacement amount when the outer gear support performs rotational displacement in resistance with the urging member;

an engagement force of the frictional engagement section is obtained in accordance with the displacement amount detected; and

the outer gear support comprises:

first and second radially extending plates disposed on axially opposing ends of the outer gear;

a pin connecting the plates and supporting the outer gear;

one of the plates including a cutout, the cutout having a first end disposed between an inner and outer radius of the plate and the cutout extending tangentially from the first end; and

the urging member being a biasing member that engages the plate cutout.

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9-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Original) A torque transmission coupling according to claim 6, wherein the rotary actuator and the frictional engagement section are disposed with rotation axes thereof being aligned with each other.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Original) A torque transmission coupling according to claim 8, wherein the rotary actuator and the frictional engagement section are disposed with rotation axes thereof being aligned with each other.

23-43. (Cancelled)

44. (Currently Amended) The coupling of claim 45, further comprising:
an exterior housing;
a pinion shaft rotatably connected with the input rotary member;
the pinion shaft being rotatably supported within the housing by a pair of axially spaced bearings; and
center axes of each bearing and said pinion shaft being mutually angularly offset.

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45. (Currently Amended) A torque transmission coupling comprising:

input-output rotary members rotatably supported to perform input-output transmission of torque;

a frictional engagement section provided between the input-output rotary members to perform torque transmission between the input-output rotary members by enforcing frictional engagement;

a compression member set that comprises a pair of members capable of performing relative rotation and that generates thrust through the relative rotation between the members to thereby cause the frictional engagement section to perform the frictional engagement; and

a rotary actuator that causes both of the members of the compression member set to perform engagement-rotational driving whereby to cause the relative rotation;

the compression member set is a compression gear set that comprises a pair of gears provided as the pair of members, an outer gear engaged with the gears and an outer gear support for supporting the outer gear, and that converts an input generated by rotational driving into a compression force in the direction along a rotation axis of the compression member set to thereby cause the frictional engagement section to enforce the frictional engagement, wherein gear ratios or engagement radii between the pair of individual gears and the outer gear are different from each other; any one of the pair of gears, the outer gear, and the

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outer gear support is non-rotatably supported; any other one thereof is rotationally driven; and the other thereof performs the relative rotation;

the rotary actuator performs the rotational driving; and

the pair of gears comprise a proximal gear and a distal gear;

the distal gear being disposed further from the rotary actuator than the proximal gear; and

the proximal gear being disposed radially inward of said outer gear;

the coupling further comprising an exterior housing and the outer gear support being supported to be capable of performing constant-angle relative rotation and capable of revolving relative to the exterior housing about the rotation axis of the compression member set;

an urging member to be interposed between the outer gear support and a support body side is provided for biasing against rotation of the outer gear support ~~to interfere to rotation with an urging force for the outer gear support that rotates in the same direction at a time of the rotational driving by the rotary actuator;~~

the torque transmission coupling further comprising displacement detection means that detects a displacement amount when the outer gear support performs rotational displacement in resistance with the urging member; and

an engagement force of the frictional engagement section being obtained in accordance with the displacement amount detected;

the outer gear support comprises:

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first and second radially extending plates disposed on axially opposing ends of the outer gear;

a pin connecting the plates and supporting the outer gear;

one of the plates including a cutout, the cutout having a first end disposed between an inner and outer radius of the plate and the cutout extending tangentially from the first end; and

the urging member being a biasing member that engages the plate cutout.

46. (Previously Presented) A torque transmission coupling comprising:

input-output rotary members rotatably supported to perform input-output transmission of torque;

a frictional engagement section provided between the input-output rotary members to perform torque transmission between the input-output rotary members by enforcing frictional engagement;

a compression member set that comprises a pair of members capable of performing relative rotation and that generates thrust through the relative rotation between the members to thereby cause the frictional engagement section to perform the frictional engagement; and

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a rotary actuator that causes both of the members of the compression member set to perform engagement-rotational driving whereby to cause the relative rotation;

the compression member set is a compression gear set that comprises a pair of gears provided as the pair of members, an outer gear engaged with the gears and outer gear support for supporting the outer gear, and that converts an input generated by rotational driving into a compression force in the direction along a rotation axis of the compression member to thereby cause the frictional engagement section to enforce the frictional engagement, wherein gear ratios or engagement radii between the pair of individual gears and the outer gear are different from each other; any one of the pair of gears, the outer gear, and the outer gear support is non-rotatably supported; any other one thereof is rotationally driven; and the other thereof performs the relative rotation;

the rotary actuator performs the rotational driving; and

the pair of gears comprise a proximal gear and a distal gear;

the distal gear being disposed further from the rotary actuator than the proximal gear; and

a press member provided between the frictional engagement section and the compression member set, receiving the thrust from the compression member set to cause the frictional engagement;

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wherein the coupling further comprises a support boss section circumferentially provided on an inner circumference of the press member so as to be extended toward the distal gear;

the distal gear is supported relatively rotatable around an outer circumferential surface of the support boss section.

47. (Previously Presented) A torque transmission coupling comprising;
input-output rotary members rotatably supported to perform input-output transmission of torque;

a frictional engagement section provided between the input-output rotary members to perform torque transmission between the input-output rotary members by enforcing frictional engagement;

a compression member set that comprises a pair of members capable of performing relative rotation and that generates thrust through the relative rotation between the members to thereby cause the frictional engagement section to perform the frictional engagement; and

a rotary actuator that causes both of the members of the compression member set to perform engagement-rotational driving whereby to cause the relative rotation;

the compression member set is a compression gear set that comprises a pair of gears provided as the pair of members, an outer gear engaged with the gears and

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an outer gear support for supporting the outer gear, and that converts an input generated by rotational driving into a compression force in the direction along a rotation axis of the compression member to thereby cause the frictional engagement section to enforce the frictional engagement, wherein gear ratios or engagement radii between the pair of individual gears and the outer gear are different from each other; any one of the pair of gears, the outer gear, and the outer gear support is non-rotatably supported; any other one thereof is rotationally driven; and the other thereof performs the relative rotation;

the rotary actuator performs the rotational driving; and

the pair of gears comprise a proximal gear and a distal gear;

the distal gear being disposed further from the rotary actuator than the proximal gear;

wherein the rotary actuator comprises an electric motor and an output shaft that is divided from and supports the proximal gear;

the output shaft is supported to an exterior housing by bearings which are disposed in both sides of the electric motor in the direction along the rotational axis;

one end of the output shaft disposed in the compression member set side is extended toward the compression member set so as to protrudes from one bearing disposed in the compression member set side in the direction along the rotational axis,

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the proximal gear is detachably connected to the one end of the output shaft.